

No. XI.—COLEOPTERA, CHRYSOMELIDÆ: HISPINÆ OF THE SEYCHELLES.

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(Text-figures 1—5.)

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THE Hispinæ collected by the Percy Sladen Trust Expedition consist of two interesting species. It is necessary to erect two new genera for them. *Nesohispa*, n.g., resembles *Xiphispa* Chap., which occurs in Madagascar and in New Guinea. *Brontispa* Sharp, which has also certain affinities with *Nesohispa*, occurs in Rodriguez Island, Mauritius, Luzon, New Guinea, the Aru Islands, and New Pomerania (New Britain). *Nesohispa* seems to be an intermediate form between *Xiphispa* and *Brontispa*.

Rhabdotohispa, n.g., has a close resemblance to *Cœlænomenodera* Blanch., which is distributed in Madagascar and West Africa. In *Rhabdotohispa* the apical joint of the antenna seems to be formed by the fusion of several joints which are distinct in *Cœlænomenodera*. The sensory pit under the last joint of the antenna of *Rhabdotohispa* is a very remarkable character. Both species were taken only in the high endemic mountain-forests*. In preparing this paper I have received great assistance from Mr Hugh Scott, who has very kindly checked my work and has made the drawings of the antennæ.

NESOHISPA, n.g. (Figs. 1 and 2).

Body elongate, parallel-sided, not very strongly depressed. *Head* longer than broad, produced between the antennæ into a blunt process; near the middle of the head there commences a longitudinal groove which widens out at the base of the process and continues along this to its apex. *Eyes* viewed dorsally not so prominent as in *Brontispa* Sharp, inferior, large, convex. *Antennæ* (Fig. 2) 11-jointed, scarcely reaching the base of the thorax; joint 1 longest, almost as long as 2 and 3 together, almost cylindrical, constricted at the apex (the constricted portion somewhat resembling a very short separate joint); joints 2—6 subequal in length, constricted at the base,

* The locality-lists would seem to indicate that these Hispinæ are in some way connected with certain of the endemic palms.—H. SCOTT.

dilated at the apex, the apical dilatation of the 2nd being less pronounced than that of the others; these joints have somewhat the appearance of a string of beads, a very distinctive character, and are seen under a high power to be distinctly but rather sparsely punctate; joints 7—11 forming a slender acuminate club, joint 7 longer, 8—10 equal in length and each shorter than 7, apical joint slightly longer and sharply acuminate; under a high power joint 7 is seen to have a smooth surface, sparsely punctate as in the preceding joints, while joints 8—11 are minutely rugulose and covered with short pubescence. *Mouth-parts* placed in a hollow surrounded by a



Fig. 1. *Nesohipsa lambaçiras*, × 8.



Fig. 2. *Nesohipsa lambaçiras*, antenna from above.

raised edge, which is met in front by the interantennal process, the under surface of which is concave. *Labial palpi* 3-jointed, proximal joint short and subglobular, 2nd joint shorter than the apical, which is more incrassate than the 2nd and rounded at apex. *Maxillary palpi* 4-jointed, joint 2 incrassate, long, joint 3 very short, apical joint longest, slightly incrassate, bluntly pointed. *Prothorax* quadrate, slightly narrowed in front with sides widely sinuate, with anterior angles obliquely truncate, forming a sharp projection internally and an obtuse prominence externally; from this obtuse prominence on either side a ridge runs obliquely backwards on the disc. *Scutellum*

with the base straight and the apex rounded. *Elytra* parallel-sided, slightly narrowed behind, truncate at apex, projecting a little beyond the abdomen; with eight straight and regular series of punctures and an abbreviated scutellar series; interstices smooth and flat, not raised at all into ribs or ridges. *Prosternum* with a raised edge in front which meets the anterior angles of the pronotum, truncate at the base, which is closely applied to the nearly straight front edge of the mesosternum; *metasternum* with an impressed median longitudinal line. Front *coxae* prominent, hind *coxae* not prominent. Two first ventral abdominal segments not soldered together. *Legs* short, femora incrassate; in the tarsus the claw-joint projects beyond the third joint, the claws not being partially hidden in the pubescence of the under side.

This genus resembles *Brontispa* Sharp in shape and general appearance, but differs from it in having the head longer than broad, and the eyes not prominent, the antennæ scarcely reaching the base of the thorax, the 1st antennal joint relatively shorter, the apical joint sharply acuminate, and the prothorax narrowed in front. From *Xiphispa* Chap. it also differs in the length and structure of the antennæ, the relative length of the 1st and three following joints, in the form of the prothorax (which is conical in *Xiphispa*), and in having the claw-joint of the tarsus projecting beyond the 3rd joint.

1. *Nesohispa lambaçiras**, n. sp. (Figs. 1 and 2).

Upper side black; under side, legs, first six joints and a little of the basal portion of the 7th joint of the antennæ dark reddish-brown: near the truncate apex of the elytra the colour is a little diluted with dark red-brown. Surface of head strongly punctate; behind there is an almost impunctate portion in the occipital region, which under a high power is seen to have transverse striations. The sinuate sides of the prothorax have three indentations: its surface is convex and strongly punctate, except in the posterior central portion, which is almost impunctate, but is seen under a high power to have very fine punctures. Base of elytra bi-sinuate with the anterior angles rounded.

Length: the type measures $8\frac{1}{4}$ mm.; a larger specimen is $9\frac{1}{4}$ mm. without the head, which it has unfortunately lost.

Described from three examples. *Type* in the British Museum.

Loc. Seychelles. Mahé: from damp forest on summit of Morne Pilot, over 2000 feet, X. or XI. 1908 (same loc. and one of same dates as *Rhabdotohispa scotti*, q.v.), 1 specimen (the type); Cascade Estate, 800—1500 feet, 1909, 1 specimen; found dead between leaf-bases of growing *Stevensonia* palm, summit of Mt. Sebert, nearly 2000 feet, 28. XII. 1908, 1 specimen.

RHABDOTOHisPA, n. g. (Figs. 3—5).

Body nearly parallel-sided, slightly broader behind. *Head* strongly transverse, very slightly produced into a blunt prominence between the antennæ. *Eyes* strongly convex. *Antennæ* (Fig. 4) short, 6-jointed; joint 1 short, slightly incrassate, obliquely

* The specific name is derived from Sanskrit *lamba* = long, *çiras* = head, the word meaning "long-headed."

truncate on the inner side in the basal portion; joint 2 longer than 1, slightly incrassate, convex on the inner side and nearly straight on the outer side, constricted at the base, which causes the swollen articulating portion sometimes to appear as a small separate joint; the antenna is slightly elbowed at the base of joint 3, joints 3—6 being directed slightly outwards; joints 3—5 subequal in length, subcylindric, broader at apex than base, gradually broadening towards the apex of the antenna; joint 6 longest, in ♂ nearly as long as 3—5 together, in ♀ about as long as 4 and 5 together, gradually broadening towards the bluntly-rounded apex. The apical portion of this 6th joint bears beneath a very remarkable excavation, with clean-cut and slightly overhanging edge; this excavation is larger in ♂ than in ♀ and differently shaped



Fig. 3. *Rhabdotohispa scotti*, ♀, × 8.



Fig. 4. *Rhabdotohispa scotti*, right antenna of ♀ from above.

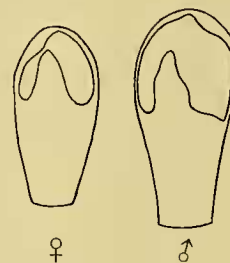


Fig. 5. *Rhabdotohispa scotti*; last joint of right antenna of ♀ and ♂, viewed from beneath, showing the outline of the sensory pit (the two figures to same scale).

(Fig. 5), but in both sexes it is roughly U-shaped, the limb on the inner side of the antenna being much broader than that on the outer side. It has not been possible to examine satisfactorily the minute structure of the surface of the excavation, but a balsam preparation under a high power shows the presence of small groups of papilliform structures situated in pits which are surrounded by a dense mass of a special form of short setæ. *Mouth-parts* in a slight hollow situated transversely between the eyes, the lower margin of which it reaches on either side, surrounded by a slightly raised margin which is interrupted behind, and at either side in front. *Labrum* pale and membranous, bearing on its front (upper) surface setæ placed in a sinuate transverse line some way behind the front margin. *Mandibles* subtriangular.

Maxillæ with the outer lobe 2-jointed, the basal joint being rather short and stout, the apical joint subconical, pointing slightly inwards; inner lobe membranous; palpi short, 4-jointed, joints 1—3 short and transverse, joint 4 incrassate, bluntly rounded apically, more convex on the inner side, about as long as 1—3 together. *Mentum* subtrapezoidal, broader in front than behind, with anterior angles rounded; ligula membranous, projecting in front; labial palpi short, joints 1 and 2 short, joint 3 incrassate, blunt at apex, more convex on the inner side, about as long as 1 and 2 together. *Prothorax* cylindrical, only slightly produced in front, not margined at the sides, much narrower at the base than the base of the elytra, with an almost impunctate longitudinal line reaching nearly from apex to base. *Scutellum* shield-like, base straight, apex widely rounded, surface seen under a high power minutely reticulate. *Elytra* with sides nearly straight, slightly broadening behind, with anterior angles rounded; towards the apex the lateral margin bends inwards, forming a widely rounded obtuse angle; suture raised into a ridge which commences a little behind the scutellum; also with three other longitudinal ridges on each elytron, converging somewhat at the base, and united by somewhat irregular transverse ridges: there are two rows of very rugose punctures between each pair of ridges; these punctures become so wide on the lateral surface as to run into each other. The surface generally presents a very rugose and rough appearance. *Under side* finely and sparsely punctate. First and second ventral abdominal segments not soldered. *Legs* short, femora moderately incrassate.

This genus resembles *Cælanomenodera* Blanch. in general shape and form, but the prothorax is not produced so far over the head in front. It has a cylindrical prothorax like that of *Promecotheca* Blanch., but without the posterior constriction.

2. *Rhabdotohispa scotti*, n. sp. (Figs. 3—5).

♀. Black; with two longitudinal lines on the prothorax, with irregular patches on the disc and the extreme apex of the elytra, with apices of femora and bases of tibiæ inwardly, and usually with the 4th, 5th and basal half of the 6th antennal joints, ochreous.

These pale markings are variable. In the hind and middle femora and tibiæ they are very much obscured with black, sometimes completely absent. They are constant at the extreme apices of the elytra, and fairly constant on the fore femora and tibiæ. In the antennæ the pale colour sometimes appears in the second joint also; on the other hand it may be very much obscured in joints 4, 5, and basal half of 6.

♂. Smaller; the extreme apices of elytra are never ochreous, and the whole insect may be completely black except the apices of the fore femora and the bases of the tibiæ, and the 5th and basal fourth of the 6th joints of antennæ, which are tinged with ochreous.

From the gradual variation observable in the examples before me it may be fairly concluded that some specimens may be completely black without a trace of ochreous.

Length: $3\frac{3}{4}$ — $4\frac{1}{4}$ mm.

Described from 9 examples, 5 ♂ and 4 ♀. *Type* in the British Museum.

Loc. Seychelles. Mahé: beaten from *Roscheria* palm-trees in damp forest on summit of Morne Pilot, over 2000 feet, 29. X. and 15. XI. 1908, 4 ♂, 3 ♀; found sitting on leaves of *Stevensonia* palm, in a piece of secondary native forest, Mare aux Cochons district about 1500 feet, in the late afternoons of 30. I. and 2. II. 1909, 1 ♂, 1 ♀.